



**Universal Service Administrative Company**  
Schools & Libraries Division

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**Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2014-2015**

September 12, 2014

Melissa Zaruba  
E-Rate Central  
14504 Bent Creek Court  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Applicant Name: RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Billed Entity Number: 126511  
Form 471 Application Number: 940708  
Funding Request Number(s): 2595964, 2595958, 2599710  
Your Correspondence Dated: July 10, 2014

After thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of USAC's Funding Year 2014 Funding Commitment Decision Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the basis of USAC's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60 day time period for appealing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your Letter of Appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that you will receive a separate letter for each application.

Funding Request Number(s): 2595964  
Decision on Appeal: **Partially Approved**  
Explanation:

- Your appeal has brought forward persuasive information that the funding request cited above should be reduced from \$8100.00/month to 6312.00/month.

Additionally, you indicated on your FCC Form 471 that your discount eligibility is 90% based upon VA State Valid file. USAC's review of your application determined that your discount eligibility percentage was not supported by this data, which calculates the eligible percentage of 74% for the City of Richmond with an 80% discount allowance. Since you did not demonstrate in your appeal that the adjustment USAC made to your discount percentage was incorrect, USAC denies your appeal regarding the increase in the discount allowance. As a result, your appeal regarding this FRN is Partially Approved.

- FCC rules provide that the discount available to an applicant is determined by indicators of poverty and high cost. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.505(b). The level of poverty is measured by the percentage of students enrolled in a school or school district that are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or a federally-approved alternative mechanism. Alternatively, the level of poverty is measured according to participation in Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplementary Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8, or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). *See* Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 9045, FCC 97-157 para. 510, n.1334 (rel. May 8, 1997). The high cost determination is made pursuant to FCC rules that classify a school or library as rural or urban. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.505(b)(3). An applicant's discount rate is determined by reference to a matrix based upon the level of poverty and whether the entity is classified as rural or urban. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.505(c).

Funding Request Number(s): 2595958, 2599710

Decision on Appeal: **Denied**

Explanation:

- You indicated on your FCC Form 471 that your discount eligibility is 90% based upon VA State Valid file. USAC's review of your application determined that your discount eligibility percentage was not supported by this data, which calculates the eligible percentage of 74% for the City of Richmond with an 80% discount allowance. Since you did not demonstrate in your appeal that the adjustment USAC made to your discount percentage was incorrect, USAC denies your appeal regarding the increase in the discount allowance. Appeal denied.
- FCC rules provide that the discount available to an applicant is determined by indicators of poverty and high cost. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.505(b). The level of poverty is measured by the percentage of students enrolled in a school or school district that are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or a federally-approved alternative mechanism. Alternatively, the level of poverty is measured according to participation in Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplementary Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8, or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). *See* Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 9045, FCC 97-157 para. 510, n.1334 (rel. May 8, 1997). The high cost determination is made pursuant to FCC rules that classify a school or library as rural or urban. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.505(b)(3). An applicant's discount rate is determined by reference to a matrix based upon the level of poverty and whether the entity is classified as rural or urban. *See* 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.505(c).

Since the Administrator's Decision on Appeal modifies funding for your application, USAC will issue a Revised Funding Commitment Decision Letter (RFCDL) to you and to each service provider that will provide the services approved for discounts in this letter. USAC will issue the RFCDL to you as soon as possible. The RFCDL will inform



you of the precise dollar value of your approved funding request(s). As you await the RFCDL, you may share this Administrator's Decision on Appeal with the relevant service provider(s).

If the original FCDL approved funding in part for the services covered by this appeal, the 120 day deadline for filing FCC Forms 486 is determined based on the date of the original FCDL that approved funding for the request(s). However, if the original FCDL denied funding for the services covered by this appeal, FCC Forms 486 cannot be filed until you have received your RFCDL.

Since your appeal was partially approved or partially approved, funding reduced, you may file an appeal with the FCC. Your appeal must be postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found under the Reference Area/"Appeals" of the SLD section of the USAC website or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.

Since your appeal was denied in full, dismissed or cancelled, you may file an appeal with the FCC. Your appeal must be postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found under the Reference Area/"Appeals" of the SLD section of the USAC website or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation during the appeal process.

Schools and Libraries Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company

cc: Harriet Coalter